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**JULY MEETING:** As customary, there will be no meeting of the Association indoors this month. The August meeting will be devoted to an exchange of field notes taken during the vacation season.

This constitutes one of the most enjoyable occasions in our yearly cycle. A large attendance is solicited and it is hoped that every member and every guest will have some contribution to make, in recounting some experience with strange or interesting birds, this summer.



**JULY FIELD TRIP** will be taken on Sunday, July 12th, over the ridge from Mill Valley to Muir Woods and down the Frank Valley to Big Lagoon, returning via Coyote Creek and the old rifle range to Manzanita, a distance of twelve miles. Purchase round trip tickets to Mill Valley, 48c. Take Sausalito ferry 8:15 a. m. Bring lunch and canteens.

This interesting trip has not been made by our parties for several years. It affords a beautiful walk and offers a varied habitat,—bay, open fields, woods, chaparral, ocean.



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE JUNE MEETING:** The one-hundred,-first, regular meeting of the Association was held on June 11th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Mrs. Kibbe, Acting Secretary; seven members and four guests present.

Following routine reports by the secretary, and informal discussions and comments, Mrs. Mexia described a trip to Tennessee Cove. Mr. Smith referred to features of a recent trip up through the Sacramento Valley and brought up the question of the effect of flooding the rice fields upon the numbers of ducks raised to maturity. Mrs. Kibbe then gave an account of two trips to Howell Mountain,—a reconnaissance in April, followed by an excursion by members of the Association on June 6-8. After further discussion, the meeting adjourned.



## BIRDING ON HOWELL MOUNTAIN

My first trip was made in April this year in company with Mrs. Kelly *via* Southern Pacific train to St. Helena and on foot to our destination. The Audubon excursion was made on June 6, by Mr. and Mrs. Parry, Mrs. Baylor, Miss Harcourt, Miss Berg and the writer, *via* Monticello Steamboat, electric train and automobile, over the same route, through the beautiful Napa Valley.

Howell Mountain is due east of St. Helena by stage line eight and one half miles. To those who walked it seemed like eighty and one half miles, because the day was quite warm and one climbs continuously, though gradually, rising over one ridge, leaving Napa Valley to the left, crossing at the head of Conn Valley, where at the intersection of roads a most delightful view is obtained, with Mt. St. Helena rising straight ahead, and farther on, Calistoga and country to the north.

The road continues to rise, until the Pacific Union College is reached, then a little fall and soon you are at White Cottages, where we made our headquarters on both occasions. Elevation is 2000 ft.

Two creeks are passed en route. About a quarter of a mile east of St. Helena station you cross the Napa Creek, or river. Time was too short on our first trip to permit us to linger here, but on the excursion we were able to spend our time freely and we had the joy of seeing, hearing and watching chats, Pacific yellow throats, gold finches, black-headed grosbeaks, yellow warblers and warbling vireos. This is a choice place and one could spend an entire morning along the banks at this spot, for we felt that herons, Anthony green and black-crowned night are to be seen for the watching.

On our walking trip we were able to scamper up hill and down dale after a songster, our memory of whose note had failed us for the moment, and we met gnat catchers in this way, but on the excursion, being in an automobile, our plan was to stop only at certain specified places and consequently we missed some of the birds—also the heat—encountered on the first trip. However, we missed none of the flowers which grew in abundance all along the way, and while a few of those seen on the first trip were a trifle *passé*, others were there in greater abundance.

In April the birds that were carrying nesting material were now sitting on their nests or feeding young.

The most insistent singers on the first trip were Warbling and Cassin Vireos, Lutescent Warblers, Black-throated Gray Warblers, while in June, the Linnets, Cassin Vireos, Black-headed Grosbeaks, House Wrens and Chipping Sparrows headed the list.

It is cruel to haul one out of bed at 5 a. m. to go on a walk, but the disgust turned to joy when Ashy-throated Flycatchers greeted us along the way and an Anna hummer built her nest just where one might reach out and touch her while walking on the path. It was impossible to get the excursionists much beyond this point, although the objective was a more beautiful spot visited on the previous trip, about a half mile away.

After breakfast on Sunday on the April trip the surrounding country was explored, and one became an expert at climbing barbed wire fences, but on the June trip we were honored by being the guests of Doctor and Mrs. William Badé and this time we walked through gates hitherto barred and barbed to us. Words fail me when I try to describe the loveliness of Dr. Badé's 150 acres which he is making into a wild life preserve, and one must sit at "Buzzards' Roost" and look out over Pope Valley to the mountains far to the east, to appreciate the magnificence of this spot. Trails there are to be traversed through beautiful growths of madrones, dogwoods, redwoods, oaks and maples, rare flowers, some nearly extinct, but found here, past charming springs, all the while listening to Hermit and Russet-backed Thrushes and with gay colored Tanagers adding a touch of beauty to the already charming place.

A little later a side trip was made to another nearby ranch and there in April Juncos greeted us, while in June they had left, but we watched a pair of House Wrens busily feeding their babies that they had snugly tucked away in the recess of an electric light reflector.

Back to the Cottages for the day and the next morning, on both occasions, we left to walk to St. Helena. I say "we", but the excursionists found it all so pleasant that they decided to remain through the week, excepting two, who were obliged to return, and who sauntered back over another route, partly through chaparral country, passing the Sanitarium on the way.

Of the fifty six birds seen and heard on the April trip, thirteen were not in evidence to us in June, but five others were added to the list, in addition to nests of Anna Hummer, Cassin Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatchers and Linnets. Pileolated Warblers seen in April were not found in June. In June, Audubon Warblers in full plumage were singing in same tree with Black-throated Gray Warblers. Hermit and russet-backed thrushes were singing at same place.

One may consider it a trifle expensive in time to travel that far to see humming birds, but for me the joy of the trip was the sight of an Anna Hummer bathing. My previous experience consisted in having them fly through the spray of my garden hose, or flit a bit in Strawberry Creek, but we were delighted to see Anna literally "sit" in a shallow spot in a little stream, with wings eternally going, causing the water to spray all over her. Once, twice, thrice, she came down, doing this stunt, ducking her head and getting soaked all over,—then up, after five minutes and clean once more. That was the treat for me—the others will have to speak for themselves.

Time was all too short and we regretted that on account of school and work others could not make the trip, which it has been suggested might be taken as an annual Audubon excursion.

Combined list of birds encountered on the two trips:

Western, California and Bonaparte gulls, sandpipers, curlews, great blue herons, (all these *en route*), California quail, turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, sparrow hawk, Cabanis and California woodpeckers; flicker, Anna and Allen hummers, ashy-throated flycatcher, black phoebe, olive-sided flycatcher, western flycatcher; coast and California jays, red-winged blackbird, western meadowlark, Brewer blackbird; purple finch, linnet, green-backed goldfinch, western lark, Nuttall, golden-crowned and chipping sparrows, junco, Bell and song sparrows; San Francisco and California towhees, black-headed grosbeak, western tanager, barn swallow, California shrike; warbling, Cassin and Hutton vireos, lutescent, yellow, Audubon, black-throated gray, Pacific yellow throat warblers; long tailed chat, pileolated warbler, thrasher; Vigers and house wrens, titmouse, chickadee, bush tit, wren tit; gnatcatchers, russet-backed and hermit thrushes, western robins. Sixty-one species.



BESSIE W. KIRBE.

### JOHN MUIR TRAIL

Every member of the Association will rejoice to learn that Governor Richardson approved the bill carrying an appropriation of \$10,000 for work on this trail, and that, while doing so, he expressed his gratification in that the State possesses mountain lovers who are interested in the development of such trails, as distinguished from automobile highways.

## CAMP CRAFT SHOW AT ROCK SPRINGS

The outdoor clubs of this district held a joint exhibit at Rock Spring, on the westerly shoulder of Mount Tamalpais, on June 21st, and on the invitation of the Sierra Club, the Audubon Association of the Pacific submitted ninety-one specimens of the common birds of the Tamalpais region. The Sierra Club booth containing this exhibit was crowded with interested visitors from the time of opening until the close of the show.



**JUNE FIELD TRIP** was taken on Sunday, June 14th, to Golden Gate Park. The party formed at the head of North Lake, Chain-of-Lakes. The day was sunny, with considerable wind.

The first thrill came before we left the meeting place. A least bittern, one of the birds seen most rarely in the park, winged his way the whole length of the lake, up through the gap in the trees to Middle Lake. Our second rarity was seen and heard too, later in the morning, from the top of a cypress,—the olive-sided flycatcher. In the afternoon, on the way to Spreckels Lake, a great blue heron flew almost across our path, completing a group of three birds quite rare in the park.

The following nests were found: Six nests of the Allen hummer, one with two eggs and each of the others with two young. One was in a Monterey cypress, two in redwood trees, one in a poplar and one in an Australian tea. The sixth nest was placed in a deciduous tree, not identified, but resembling a fruit tree. Two sparrows' nests were empty and not identified. One coot's nest and one bush-tit's nest.

The entire group ate lunch on the west shore of Middle Lake, at a point from which the coot nest was plainly visible. The female, (presumably), remained at the nest, while the male made trip after trip with pieces of tule and water grasses, which she received directly from him.

Birds encountered were: Gull in flight, not identified, mallard and ruddy duck; white-fronted, Canada, Hntchins and cackling geese domesticated on Stow Lake; least bittern, great blue heron and coot; California quail, Allen hummer, black phoebe and olive-sided flycatcher; Brewer blackbird, purple finch, linnet, green-backed goldfinch and pine siskin; Nuttall sparrow, junco, song sparrow and San Francisco towhee; Hutton (?) vireo, yellow and pileolated warblers, salt marsh yellow throat and Vigors wren; chickadee, bush-tit, russet-backed thrush and robin. Thirty-two species.

Members present were: Mesdames Kibbe, Mexia and Myer; Mesdemoiselles Ayer, Cohen, Pettit, Pringle and Stevens; Messrs. Myer and Smith. As guests, Mesdemoiselles Gertrude, Margaret and Phyllis Bastin, Goss, Kerner, Schultz and Werner; Scouts Henry Goldstone, Felix Juda, Henry Levy and Lester Lipsitch. Ten members and eleven guests.

CORNELIA C. PRINGLE.

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## AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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Meets second Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p.m., in Assembly Hall of San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets.

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